bBr 976.10.1

E. W. Nelson
Feb. 28, 1883

OFFICE OF THE

OBSERVER

UNITED STATES SIGNAL STATION,

Santa Fe, N.M.
~~Pike's Peak, Colo.~~ Feby 28 1883

My dear Sir:

Yours of the 9th inst was rec'd today upon my return from an excursion of some days.

My Bird report is completed from the Thrushes up to the Black Brant no. 596 of Ridgway's Catalogue.

From that point on to the end of the list, numbering about 75 or 80 species, I have completed the Bigraphical portion from my notes (of such species as I observed and from authors of most of the others).

There remains then the task of going carefully over my collection of prairie birds with the view to note such novel plumages and variations as may occur and to make any comparisons desirable with specimens from other regions and allied species.

In fact to get as much information from the Collection from the point named, no 596 as possible before it is scattered. Should anything new turn up I should wish my name to appear with your own

as its sponsor.
I do not understand exactly what you mean by arrangement. Whether classification of species, families &c or arrangement of matter in the notes.
I have followed Ridgways classification but if you have any points worthy of introduction I see no harm in your applying them to the water-birds which you have in your portion of the work.
You will receive full credit for your portion of the work on title page and preface, and in addition will receive a set of skins from my duplicate series ~~include~~ of water fowl (including such species as the Emperor Goose — fisher Eider (yg & old) Stellers Eider (1st plumage) Som. V-nigra yg. Crested & Parrot & Knot-billed Auks young of Horned & Tufted Puffins — Heads of adults showing Bill moults. Young Sabines Gull, also Kotzebues Kittiwake (yg & ad.) Arctic — and I think Aleutian Tern yg & ad, adult at least of the latter. Yg. of Fulix marila & of Old Squaw duck. yg. Mergus serrator 3 species of Jaegers and others; and should there be skins especially desirable in the rest of the collection of which there were duplicates you could have them at least of Actodromas acuminata and Sprus fraterculus. I trust I have been explicit enough in this, if not let me know what you

2

28 Feb 83

OFFICE OF THE

OBSERVER

UNITED STATES SIGNAL STATION,

Pike's Peak, Colo. 188

design further.
I shall go to W. the last of April or early in May and the skins will be selected then and either you can be there or have Henshaw go over the series with me in your interest.
If you take the matter in hand please notify me at once and I will forward you such part of my manuscript as will be necessary to you in order to make the biographical and technical matter connect. You will also need my catalogue book to get dates, &c.
There are many eggs of the various species which I would also wish their average & extreme measurements given.
In an alcoholic tank in the Basement of the S. I. are a number of crustaceans just moulting bill sheaths.
The series of Gulls you will find to well repay some time spent and especially the Kittiwakes. I think there are two closely related

forms found in Bering Sea.

If I am forced to reside out here during the passage of the report through the press I would also wish you to correct the proofs if possible. Of your own part you would desire this of course. The report will be well illustrated and will go out in good shape.

If you take this matter in hand I think you will find that you have not wasted your time from any point of view.

Ridgway has some memoranda from me of special points which he will give you.

If you are placed so it is possible I hope you will go to W. and complete the work at as early a day as possible. Please write me at your earliest convenience.

I send Ridgway my bird catalogue tomorrow.

Very truly yours

E W Nelson

I have given very brief biographical notes of some species and if you can add anything will be glad to have it done.

W. Brewster

P.S. As to preparation of your part of the work you are to have full discretionary power to do as you please with justice to the collection or material.

E. W. Nelson
Sept. 3, 1883

Hamilton.
via Glorieta N. M.
Sept. 3. 1883

My dear Mr. Brewster:

Some time since I received the circular of the proposed A. O. Union. The idea is an excellent one and will undoubtedly meet with the hearty encouragement it deserves among our ornithologists. It is to be hoped that some satisfactory rules regarding nomenclature may be reached so that the present loose system may be checked.

One of the first questions which will arise in the meeting will be the choice of the first president. Although I will be unable to be present at the meeting I will take the liberty of suggesting that I do not consider Dr. Coues a candidate (which

he will undoubtedly be worthy the position mainly upon nonscientific grounds but for reasons which will doubtlessly have considerable weight with many others beside myself.

I was very sorry to learn of Mr. Allen's continued illness.

If it is at all practicable Mr. Allen is the man for the head of the society. He has worn himself out in the cause and with his unspotted record should be unanimously elected. He deserves this mark of esteem even should he be unable to take an active part in the organization of the society.

I will be very glad to hear of any further steps which may be taken and regret that I cannot be present.

Very Sincerely yours

E. W. Nelson

E. W. Nelson
May 6, 1884

Tucson, Ariz.
May 6 '84

Dear Mr. Brewster:

Your favor from Charleston just at hand. I will be glad to supply you with your desiderata from this region so far as possible and should your wants ~~it~~ cover a considerable number of skins of common or rare species an average price could be made for so much a skin. In your notes on Stephens coll. I see you received only a single Maryland Yellowthroat from here - I can get you a nice lot if you wish - Also a nice series of Melospiza fallax proper, found here. The best way would be for you to send me a list of species you desire series of or additional specimens and according to this list we can arrange prices. I have about 300 skins on hand now from here. I expect to go to the Santa Rita's in June. In regard to the Alaskan skins - Ward is considering the advisability of taking the entire lot of skins and he has my price for the coll. in a lump but I have

not heard from him regarding it yet.
In the collection are downy young and immature plumages of many species. Xema, Larus brachyrhynchus, Rissa tridactyla kotzebui, Somateria v-nigra, Som. fischeri, ~~Alca~~ Alca Stellari, Fulix marila, Harelda, Red-throated Loon, Mormon cinerata & M. comiculata, Sterna aleutica & S. macrura and various other species in plumages which you would most likely wish to fill gaps in your series.
As I am not posted exactly as to what is in the coll. since Hanshaw took out his series & my own I will be obliged to refer you to him and have written him to take out anything you wish before the coll. is sold to Ward if there is time. The best plan if you could spare the time would be for you to make a trip to Washington and go over the entire lot & choose just what you wish. In regard to the price for the downy & immature birds I scarcely know how to decide - I wrote Hanshaw that I wished to get a fair price for them and would leave the arrangement of this in his hands if he felt like taking this matter in his hands. In any case if you will choose your desiderata they can be laid at one side and I think we will have no great trouble

6 May 84

in arranging the prices. The main point is for you to pick out what you wish as soon as possible as Hinshaw wishes to get done with the coll. & in a very short time the coll. will either go to Wardor into the hands of a dealer to sell on commission. I think you will find a lot of things you will wish if you look over the coll. personally.

Thanks for your kind offer to speak to your friends in the way of helping me find a market for my skins from here - it will doubtlessly be of great assistance.

Prof. Baird is trying to get a printing order through the House for my report.

Very sincerely

E. W. Nelson

Stephens is camping near Ft. Lowell. We will probably go together into the Santa Rita's

N

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

C. HART MERRIAM, CHIEF.
T. S. PALMER, ASSISTANT CHIEF.

Feby. 16, 1900 —

Mr. Wm. Brewster
Cambridge, Mass.

My dear Mr. Brewster; I am now working over our Mexican specimens of Empidonax and wish very much to borrow some typical specimens of your 3 species from Chihuahua Lower Calif. for comparison. Would like about a dozen each of griseus & cinerascens and as near that number of pusillus as you can to send. If possible I wish we could make some kind of an exchange whereby we could obtain from you a couple of typical specimens of each of your species and if you are disposed to do so we can probably offer you a satisfactory exchange. Should you be willing to do this please mark the specimens you wish us to keep in the series you may send on for examination & at the same time let me know what you wish in exchange.

Very truly yours,

E. W. Nelson

P.S. In the series of E. griseus please send spec's both from La Paz and Alamos.

N.

Nelson, E. W.
Feb. 16, 1900.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

C. HART MERRIAM, CHIEF.
T. S. PALMER, ASSISTANT CHIEF.

Sept. 26, 1900 –

Mr. Wm Brewster
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Mr. Brewster;

I am back again & at work on my Mexican birds.
Mr. Deane wrote me some time ago that you would send the flycatchers now that I wrote for last spring. I will be very glad to see them as soon as it is convenient for you to send them and will be obliged if you can spare some specimens in exchange as suggested in my former letter.

Friendly yours

E. W. Nelson

Nelson, E. W.

Sept. 26. 1900.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

C. HART MERRIAM, CHIEF
T. S. PALMER, ASSISTANT CHIEF

Dec. 1, 1900—

Dear Mr. Brewster;

Some days ago I returned the series of Emp. griseus with the 4 spec's. of Catharus. The other Chihuahua Catharus differs so much from its nearest relative I was quite confident I would find a similar amount of difference between your birds & those from Jalisco. In this I was disappointed for your Chihuahua birds are very nearly typical Catharus melpomene clarus Jouy. I have gone over the Empidonax matter in the light obtained from your material and find—to my surprise—that your series of topotypes of Emp. griseus and our series of Emp. canescens Salv. & Godm. from the type region of the latter are indistinguishable—the latter name having priority of a month must stand. E. canescens described from the cool, rather humid valley of Mexico (2240–2400 ft.) ought to differ from E. griseus from the hot, low peninsula of Lower Cal. I do not recall another species among small birds which has this unaccountable range. I suppose it is the

necessary exception to prove the rule.
In the matter of Emp. fulvivius I have more satisfactory news. There are three ~~spe~~ closely related species of Empidonaces in Mexico with complementary ranges as follows:— E. fulvivius covers the Sierra Madre of Western Mexico south to Jalisco.

E. affinis on the mountains about the southern border of the table-land, and

E. trifidus sp. nov. which occupies the mountains of Chiapas and Guatemala. (This will be described in Jan. Auk and the ranges of the three birds given).

Curiously enough E. fulvivius and E. trifidus are more closely related than is either of these to ~~the other~~ E. affinis from the intermediate area.

My assistant is now on his way to Mex. & I start in a month.

I still retain a very vivid remembrance of our enjoyable meeting at Cambridge. It is stated on all sides that the meeting of the A.O.U. just passed was the most thoroughly enjoyable one ever held — the only drawback being that the next few meetings may seem tame by comparison. I was especially delighted at being able to visit Concord and think that trip was a fine cap to the Cambridge meeting.

Sincerely yours, E. W. Nelson

Nelson, E. W.
Dec. 1, 1890.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

C. HART MERRIAM, CHIEF
T. S. PALMER, ASSISTANT CHIEF

Dec 4/01

Dear Brewster; Your letter is at hand & am glad you are going over your mss. so thoroughly. It will be all right if you do not send it on for a week or ten days longer since I have plenty of work on hand and so its arrival sooner or later will not matter so long as it reaches me in time for me to go over it before I leave in January. For this reason I hope you will go ahead & complete your revision while you have it in hand for it is always easier to complete a job once well under way than to pick it up & complete it later.

Mearns found that Swainson's Tachycineta Thalassina is a large Mexican bird with a green rump of which our collection contains a single specimen from Mt. Popocatapetl. This leaves the U.S. bird to

Nelson — E. W. Dec. 4. 1901.

be named & I understood Mearns to say he would describe it in the Jan. Auk. This, you will see leaves your Lower Calif. bird free for you to name. I will send you our specimen of typical *Thalassina* very soon so you can use it in making your comparisons but of course, as Mearns was the one who worked up this matter nothing should be published until his description comes out. You could publish your race on the strength of its difference between it & the U.S. bird but knowing the fact that the latter is an unnamed subspecies it will probably be better to wait so you can use all the material in your comparison. Your plan to publish your material as the Birds of the Cape Region without waiting for further work is no doubt a wise one and I hope you can get the material into the hands of the printer this winter. The offer of the Museum in the matter of publication strikes me as a remarkably favorable one. Am looking forward with much interest to the arrival of your mss.

Sincerely yours, E. W. Nelson

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

C. HART MERRIAM, CHIEF
T. S. PALMER, ASSISTANT CHIEF

Dec. 9/01

Dear Brewster;

Many thanks for your photographs which came this morning. They are very good and I am especially pleased to have the one taken at your camp. Will send my own very soon. I send you by mail two specimens of the true Tachycineta thalassina from the southern end of Mex. tableland. You can return them when you are through making your comparison. R.R. & I compared a Lower Calif. bird in the museum series with specimens from the U.S. & found it strikingly smaller. Your bird is probably a well marked form. With this I send a copy of Swainson's original description.

When you return the swallows you can do it under the frank which is enclosed with box.

Sincerely yours,

E. W. Nelson.

P.S. Am very glad you wrote R.R. as you did for he has been rather blue lately & your letter has pleased & encouraged him very much. N.

Nelson — E.N.
Dec. 9, 1901.

~~Sw~~ Tachycineta thalassina (Swainson) Phil. Mag. I, 366, 1827.

"Above changeable green with lilac reflections; beneath snowy white; wings & tail violet brown; tail slightly forked."
Ears, sides of the head and all the underparts pure white; wings long, first quill longest."
"Total length 4½; wings 4 8/10; tail 2 2/10; depth of fork 4/10."

Type from Real del Monte, Hidalgo, Mexico - (at northern border of Valley of Mexico, 7,000) The spec. from Popocatapetl is from about 9,500 feet

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

C. HART MERRIAM, CHIEF
T. S. PALMER, ASSISTANT CHIEF

Ashtabula Ohio
Jan 24/02

Dear Brewster: Your recent letter came just before I left Washington and it gave me the greatest pleasure to know that I had been of some real service to you in the matter of the Lower California report. Now that you have it we will be sound I sincerely trust you will be able to complete it & have it in the printer's hands with as little delay as possible. I hope you will publish everything of value about the country, etc. that can be dug out of Frazar's notes. I am stopping here a couple of days to visit my mother but go on Sunday & expect to be at the mouth of the Rio Grande a week from tomorrow. By this mail I send you another copy

photographs to replace the one injured in the mail. Hope this one will arrive all right.

I expect to be back in Washington the last of May or sometime in June at latest. Of course it is hard to be exact in dates with 1200 or 1500 miles of wagon travel ahead & an unknown number of localities to work.

Very sincerely yours,

E. W. Nelson

Nelson, E. W.
Jan. 24 1902

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

C. HART MERRIAM, CHIEF
T. S. PALMER, ASSISTANT CHIEF

July 30/02

Dear Brewster;

It just occurs to me to ask you if you are correcting the name of Empidonax griseus (by placing it as a synonym of E. canescens Salv. & Godm.) in your "Birds of the Cape Region"?
I have a note on the proper name for Falco sparv. deserticolus for the Oct. Auk and thought of sending in the case of E. griseus at the same time when it occurred to me that you probably have it already corrected in your forthcoming work.
I cannot remember how it was in your mss. I did not get a single new bird last winter, but secured a fine male of the rare Helminthophila crissalis — the first ♂ known — besides some other interesting things. Found Petrochelidon fulva

Breeding on the N.E. border of the tableland — the specimens being indistinguishable from the Cuban birds!

Sincerely yours,

E. W. Nelson

Nelson — E.W.
July 30, 1902

13 Elm St
Ashtabula, Ohio.
Aug. 5/02

Dr. Bowles,

Thanks for your prompt reply. First, in reply to Mr. Deane's queries per postal card of Aug 1st. Dryobates arizonae from Zacatecas north through Chihuahua to Arizona appears to be identical. The birds of southern Jalisco & Colima are Ridgways fraterculus. The Chihuahua birds have never been separated so far as I know. In the Auk for July 1899 p. 256 you will see that Cyanocitta macrolopha (Baird) becomes a synonym of C. diademata which ranges from Zacatecas north through Chihuahua into the U.S. — the Chihuahua bird has not been separated. I cannot agree with your disposal of Euf. griseus for our considerable series of E. canescens from the Valley of Mexico & the nabouts ~~are~~ are, so far as I have been able to ~~see~~, identical with your griseus. However, in deference to your opinion as given in the memorandum sent I will leave

the matter for the present — or, what is better I will write Fisher to send you our set of E. canescens (which is labelled griseus) and you can make the comparison yourself and so decide definitely whether you wish to retain the name or not. Our specimens from Ixalpan, Federal District, are from the close vicinity of the type locality of E. canescens while the others from Tehuacan, Puebla; Chalchicomula, Puebla; from Tula, Pachuca, Tulancingo, & Irolo, Hidalgo; & Cuernavaca, Morelos are all from the region just around the type locality & are typical. I hope you will be able to prove that I am mistaken & that griseus is worthy of recognition. I wish you would let me know the result of your comparison as soon as convenient after you have made it. In regard to your note about your pulverius vs affinis of Swainson — Our series of Empidonax covering the country from Guatemala to northern Chihuahua shows pretty conclusively that your pulverius is distinct from affinis Sw. We have specimens of E. pulverius from localities in Chihuahua, Durango, Zacatecas, Jalisco and Tamaulipas (mts.). E. affinis (which Lawr. names pulvipectus) is represented by specimens from the states of Mexico, Morelos, Puebla, Michoacan, Guerrero & Veracruz (mts.). They are not

By consulting a map you will see that the two ranges are definitely segregated & our series show that the two forms are distinct enough as differences go in this group. For this reason I think you better not publish your note until you see our series. I will return to W. in Sept. and will pick out & send you our series so you can decide the matter for yourself. Would have Fisher do it but do not remember whether these birds are labelled or not.

What have you done about Ornithion imb. ridgwayi? From all I have been able to make out I have come to the conclusion that ridgwayi was based on bleached summer birds and that specimens in fresh plumage from Ariz. & Sonora are not separable from similar birds from Texas & east Mexico. I will ask Fisher to send you our series of Ornithion with the E. canescens so you can decide. It will be a pity for you not to have this or any other material you need from our collection to settle points of this kind

Nelson E.W. Aug 6, 1907

while you are working on your collection or preparing your paper. Regret that I did not attend to this sooner. Do not hesitate to let me know if you can use to advantage any other specimens from our collection. So far as Mr. Salvin's comparison of specimens of Empidonax goes I would not give it any special weight for I do not think he properly appreciated differences so little marked as often separate members of this group. I am greatly interested to know the result of your comparison of our series of the two birds sent with your own.

It gives me great pleasure to know that you again feel able to take up bird work so continuously and it must be very gratifying to yourself.

Sincerely
E. W. Nelson

P.S. I am visiting my mother till Sept. when I return to W. Have my Mex. field notes with me & am collating them. N

13 Elm St
Ashtabula O.
Aug 13/02

Dear Brewster;

From your recent letter I think I could not have made plain that some of the specimens of Empidonax canescens in our collection are practically topotypes. The type locality of E. canescens is Mexicalcingo, a suburb of the city of Mexico and our collection contains 4 specimens from Tlalpam which is another suburb of the city of Mexico in sight of the former place as was the level valley apart of. The other specimens are from varying distances but appear to be practically identical. I await your results with interest. Am very glad you are again working on birds and hope you have other work in view after your Cambridge history is done.

Sincerely
E. W. Nelson

Nelsons E. Ill.
Aug 13, 1902

Nelson - E.W.
Dec. 20, 1903

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

C. HART MERRIAM, CHIEF
A. K. FISHER, ASSISTANT CHIEF
T. S. PALMER,
ASST. IN CHARGE GAME PRESERVATION
F. E. L. BEAL,
ASST. IN CHARGE ECONOMIC ORNITHOLOGY

Dec. 19/03

My dear Brewster; I wish to thank you very much for the loan of the Myiarchus skins which reached me long since and which I return postpaid by express today. I have just completed my paper on Myiarchus & it will be published at once by the Biological Society. Your specimens were exactly what I needed to establish the relationship between M. cinerascens and inquietus. All of the specimens you sent except one are labelled nuttingi but are nearly typical representatives of M. nuttingi inquietus (Salv. & Godm.). Nuttingi proper ~~and~~ does not occur north of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. ~~Very soon~~ I plan to take up the preparation of a Check-list of Mexican Birds very soon in which I will give the original citation, type locality and distribution. This will be convenient for reference and I hope to now

it ready for publication next summer. Goldman starts for Mexico the first of January and I hope to join him in March. We will do a lot of cleaning up jobs in the southern part of the country in Sinaloa that we worked over some years ago.

I hope you will make a visit to Washington before I leave in the spring so we can see more of one another than is possible in the rush of an A.O.U. meeting.

Sincerely yours,

E. W. Nelson.

P.S. I sent a note in for the January Auk substituting <u>canescens</u> Baird for ~~for~~ your <u>griseus</u> as the result of the comparisons made for me by Dr. Shufeldt with the type of <u>canescens</u>. I did not like to replace one of your names but unfortunately the publication of their name ~~had to~~ takes precedence on the strength of a month's priority, & as the change must be made I thought it best to do it at once. Fuertes has been here nearly 3 weeks making studies of Mexican birds for my work. 125 plates are now finished or under way — mainly the latter.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

C. HART MERRIAM, CHIEF
A. K. FISHER, ASSISTANT CHIEF
T. S. PALMER,
ASST. IN CHARGE GAME PRESERVATION
F. E. L. BEAL,
ASST. IN CHARGE ECONOMIC ORNITHOLOGY

Jan 13/04

Dear Brewster;

It has been nearly a month since your letter came although it seems but a few days. Time seems to have become peculiarly active these last few years & the months race by so rapidly that one is discouraged at feeling the limitations on his ability to accomplish the work he would like to do. At the end of a year the advance made as compared with what remains is depressing.

I do not remember whether I told you or not that I am preparing a check list of Mexican birds to be a more elaborate affair than the A.O.U. list of N.A. Birds as it will contain original vernacular references, type locality, geographic & faunal distributions. Hope to publish it next winter as a fauna. The data is largely prepared except the

distribution which I will have to complete by examining various collections for localities. When at Cambridge next fall I shall take advantage of your former offer to go over your Mexican birds.

Dangs writes that he is not able to send a man out this winter which is a pity. I hope the work in his field work will not lessen his interest in bird & mammal work so to lessen his future activity.

When you wrote me you said that Mrs. Brewster was not as well as she had been. I was sorry to know this on account of you both and sincerely trust that she may be well on the road to recovery from this.

You must be having a trying winter and I wish to assure you of my sympathy in it all.

Sincerely yours,

E. W. Nelson

Nelson – E.W.
Jan 13.1904

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

C. HART MERRIAM, CHIEF
A. K. FISHER, ASSISTANT CHIEF
T. S. PALMER,
ASST. IN CHARGE GAME PRESERVATION
F. E. L. BEAL,
ASST. IN CHARGE ECONOMIC ORNITHOLOGY

July 27/04

Dear Brewster; How are you? From second hand reports I learn that you are all right again and hope it is true.

I have been doing a lot of digging lately in locating types of the species of Mexican birds. I plan to state, when possible, the ~~loca~~ present location of the type of each species in my Check list of Mexican birds which I hope to publish next winter. I did not go to Mexico the past winter, but Goldman went & has sent up a lot of interesting birds, a number of them being things we have been after for a long time.

I am planning to go to California with Dr. Merriam early in August & to return here the last of September.

Do you know the present location of the type of Peucaea aspiciens ionnora Brown?

I wish to learn whether it is still in Brown's collection or where.
My trip west this summer is to study the collections of Mex. birds in Calif. & get what added data I can on distribution, &c.

Sincerely yours,
E. W. Nelson

Nelson, E. W.
July 22, 1904.

Nelson - E. W.
Dec. 26. 1904.

Washington
Dec 26/04

Dear Brewster;

Although I have not written you since my return yet it does not follow that I have forgotten the pleasant days passed in Cambridge. Between the kindness of yourself & Mrs. Brewster I was sorely tempted to make my job last considerably longer for I do not think I have ever worked on birds before under such delightful conditions. I obtained some good data at New Haven (on 3 or 4 species) and considerable at New York but your collection gave the greatest harvest I have yet secured in any collection outside our own. You suggested a joint paper on one occasion when we were speaking of the mexican collection. If I can spare the time & you wish to have it done I might add to the list in your mss. whatever additional species our collection contains from that region & also various comments on species mentioned to make apparent extension of ranges, &c. so to give the paper more than a nominal list. In that case I would also add a few introductory remarks

Please let me know just what you think of this idea?
We could then publish it as a joint paper.
I hear that Mr. Drane is back at the museum which is good news for such colds as he had sometimes hang on a long time. I am fighting one off now. We have had several sleety days & the city is coated with ice. You could not get worse weather for raw dampness along the coast.
C. H. is recently back & is in good condition. He goes to Phila tomorrow.
Please have the birds (I picked out or named on the list) sent on as soon as convenient. Whether you can go in on a joint paper or not I hope you will be able very soon to have the mss. list made of your Mex. collection (Sonora & Chihuahua only). This can be done almost entirely from the Catalogue book & I can correct the names, where necessary, from my notes. In having the list made care should be taken to add the name of the State in each instance. This is lacking usually in the catalog but must be available in your notes.
With sincerest thanks for your kindness
Yours,
E. W. Nelson
Happy & prosperous new year for you.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 3, 1905.

Mr. William Brewster,

Brattle St., Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Brewster:

The box containing the specimens for examination has arrived, and been checked up with the list sent and found to be correct. In addition to the specimens already sent, I would much like to have your series of Icterus abeillei and Icterus bullocki. Will get right at the material on hand in connection with other specimens which I have borrowed from other collections, and hope to be able to return the specimens with the results in the course of a couple of weeks. I have received Mr. Deane's letter saying that you would be pleased to have me cooperate in the paper on Mexican birds in your collection, and I shall try to find time to do the portion which I proposed. If I can do this I think that altogether the paper can be made an important one, for it will have a lot of new matter of interest. Hope you are getting on satisfactorily with your work and that we will see the Cambridge list published soon.

Sincerely yours,

E. W. Nelson

Wolfm. Otto.
Jan. 3, 1905

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 26, 1905.

Mr. William Brewster,

Brattle St., Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Brewster:

At length I have completed my examination of the specimens borrowed from you and will return them at once with many thanks. Among those brought on I find three undescribed ones. These are a form of Merula tristis, of Coccothraustes abeillei, and of Conurus. I do not know what you would like to do with these but am returning them with the specimens I have picked out as types each marked with a blank red tag. Do you wish to describe these now or will you wait until our paper on the birds of southern Sonora and western Chihuahua is published. I do not think there will be any necessity for hurry in this matter, since you probably possess the only specimens of these birds in existence. As a suggestion I would propose the following names for these three birds. Of course these are merely subject to your approval. Merula tristis chihuahuana, Conurus nemoralis, and Coccothraustes abeillei gratus. If you wish to publish these birds in advance of the paper I will send you the notes I have made upon their relationships to the most nearly allied forms. Otherwise I will keep them and insert them in the paper. I have taken descriptions of the types so that I can insert them in our paper when the manuscript is sent me, unless you wish to make the descriptions yourself. When

your manuscript is sent on I will take Goldman's reports upon his observations in southern Sonora during ~~the~~ his winter's work there and add them to the matter of the McLeod and Frazar collections, and in this way try to get together all we know of the birds south of Guaymas in Sonora. I would suggest that the title of the paper include 'notes on the birds of west central Chihuahua and southern Sonora, Mexico, based upon collections and notes made by Frazar, Goldman, and McLeod.' Then I will make some general introductory notes upon the region, based upon Goldman's reports and also upon whatever matter you have which can be utilized in giving a general idea of the region. In this connection it will be well for you to have copied what you have already published in general notes upon the district where McLeod and Frazar worked in your papers describing new birds obtained by them. If you can add anything to this it will be of value, since they worked a section not visited by Goldman, his work having been a little south. Taking it altogether the paper should be a valuable faunal contribution to the natural history of Mexico.

How are you coming on with the 'Birds of Cambridge?' Henshaw tells me that you were nearly through with it when he left and were planning to at once take up the other part of the work. This is good news and I hope that nothing will interfere with your completion of the second part at an early date.

Have you any drawings of the McLeod-Frazar birds which you could use for illustrations in our paper? It strikes me that it would be a good idea to have a number of illustrations, pro-

vided the Museum of Comparative Zoology would be willing to meet the expense. The paper itself will be of sufficient importance to warrant expenditure of this kind provided they have the money available.

Sincerely,

E. W. Nelson

Hershaw is looking well, and is busy running [illegible]

Nelson - E. W.
Jan 26. 1908.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Jan 26/05

Dear Brewster;

In my letter this morning I forgot to call your attention ~~to the~~ certain specimens of *Empidonax* in your series which I am returning. These are as follows:-

nos 23830, 31, 32, 35 } Pinos Altos, Chi.

23839, 40, 41 } Bravo, Chi.

They represent a bird darker & grayer than *difficilis* and is found in the pine covered ~~m~~ mountains on & all around the Mexican tableland. It has an average larger bill & although your specimens are about the same size as *difficilis* yet as a rule *Bairdi* is larger. ~~than~~ Their darker non olivo green color in worn spec's like yours & the ~~deeper~~ clearer green in unworn specimens

distinguish them from *difficilis* which is their nearest relative.

Sincerely

E. W. Nelson

Nelson - E. W.
Jan 26. 1904.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Feb. 18 1901

Dear Director:

I am glad the management will permit a colored plate, and photographic views of the country. After you will get a set of the best views McGee has gone to choose the most striking. It would be desirable to have a few views of the country. I forgot to look up what colored plate should it would be best to have. Cyanocitta cristata would be very good as it is a bird likely to remain in our residents is practically unknown to American (ex.) ornithologists. When you get back the ~~photographs~~ proofs of the plates you could not select the photographs to be given from which should make up a few to use. I think Rodale would be glad to have you prepare if photographs of the country treated according to the suggestions of Phil. Pillsbury & Chapman in Bird-Craft over their spray. Yours, [illegible]

Nelson E.W.
Feb. 18, 1905

Send this to Dr. Merriam in the letter I have written to tell him you will see him in Washington
A. H. 13 p.m.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 17 '05

Dear Commander;

In my last letter I think I failed to reply about the species that it would be best worth while to figure in our paper on the Birds of Sonora. Do you expect to come on here to the meeting of the A.O.U. Committee which meets the 21st? If so we can talk it over then. If not I will write you later. I am getting things in shape for starting on a long field trip. The plans are not definitely settled yet but I will let you know as soon as I know positively just what I am to do. Expect to leave here by the 25th inst. and to be gone all summer so the Sonoran paper will have to lay over till fall. Hope to see you on here at the meeting. How is the Cambridge list coming on?

Sincerely yours,

E. W. Nelson

Dr. Hershaw is on the Biol. Survey force now & is getting his grip on things in good shape. Work is what he needed to put him on his feet again.

Nelson, E. W.
Cifer. 12./305.

Nelson – E. W.
Apr 17, 1906.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 17/06

Dear Brewster,

I have been greatly disappointed to find that your plan to come on here has miscarried. When I first returned, a month ago, Hershaw said you would be on here before long & I was delighted at the prospect of seeing you again. Hope you may yet reconsider & come on in May when everything outdoors here is in its most beautiful condition. I know that Fisher would rejoice to plank a shad in your honor at the Island while other friends would help you do justice to the occasion.

We had a most successful trip through Lower Cal., visiting practically all the type localities except on some of the islands. It gives me much pleasure to report our capture of 8 specimens of Andrea dragoni at La Paz & although I have not yet

made a careful comparison I feel confident it is a good form. Goldman & I will get out a 'Fauna' on the trip. At present I am working up a paper on the rabbits of Mexico which I began before I went away. Shall try to get out my Check-list of Mex. birds or at least have the mss. read, for press next fall. It will facilitate the preparation of the A.O.U. list.

Drane wrote a short time ago that you wished a copy of the Eskimo book for a friend. I will send it on very soon. The edition was exhausted long ago owing to the demand from people interested in Alaska but I still have a few personal copies left which I hold for special occasions.

Am glad to hear that your Cambridge work is approaching completion.

Sincerely

E. W. Nelson

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Sept. 13/06

Dear Brewster; This is an apology and an appreciation. First I trust you will show your forgiving disposition by overlooking what must appear like inexcusable delay in my acknowledgment of "Birds of the Cambridge Region". My defense to this is that I went off on my vacation very soon after it arrived. I have recently returned and have just finished reading it with some care. I am greatly pleased with it. It is a fine piece of work done so perfectly that it should serve as a model for local bird work. This so far as it goes but I feel defrauded not to find the historical part you planned to include and above all I regret that you could not have included vastly more of your charming accounts of the life histories of the species.

Your introductory part when you tell of the character of the country about Cambridge is extremely interesting little as I know of it and what you have to say about the fields along Vassall Lane strikes along lines

series of happy memories of my own early experiences in that delectable land, which one can only enter once and the key is Youth. What fairyland we walked through in those early days. It is an exquisite pleasure just to have the memories of those days stirred up again. The first two or three years of my bird work about Chicago I sandy or never went out shooting that I failed to secure some bird I had never seen or heard of before and each one was a marvel.

It does not seem to me that there is a chance for the beginner now, with his handbooks & colored plates and easy methods of knowing what to expect, to get half the pleasure I derived from the gift straight from the gods of each new bird I found.

But this is getting away from the Birds of Cambridge. It is a good piece of work and I am very glad you have completed it. For one reason it is good to have it off your hands for now I trust you are in the mood to go ahead with other work for which you have so much material. How about the interesting historical notes you omitted here? And how about the mass of valuable & illuminating notes you have on life histories? It will be a great loss to ornithology if you fail to publish these.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

For the last two weeks or thereabouts you must have been having a hard time taking care of Hinshaw. Do not let him eat green apples and, although perhaps rather late in the day, I would suggest that you take the first opportunity to remove from his possession a certain pint bottle he carried in his hand bag from here. Things will probably be quieter in that general neighborhood after this is done.

I am writing this at home & with an open window without a screen just back of this section of me. As a consequence the insect fauna is holding a reception on the desk. We are having a hot spell now and long for the coming of cool nights.

It is only a couple of months or so till the meeting of the A.O.U. and I trust nothing will prevent your being with us then. I have had a set of lantern slides made for a talk on our trip through Lower Calif.

Sincerely yours,

Kindest regards to Mrs.

E. W. Nelson

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Sept. 25/06

Dr. L. A. Bauster:

In his manual N. A. Bds. footnote to p. 599, Ridgway gives the date of publication of your Empid. prior as Jan. 31, 1859. This date is far ahead of Salv. & Godman's E. canescens. Can you tell me on what this date is based? Did you distribute separates so that they reached various people by that date and do it generally enough so that your name can be rightly said to have been published then? If so your name must stand. If only one or two people rec'd separates at that time then the matter is doubtful. I hope you did send them out & thus enable us to use your name. I do not see how I came to overlook this note of R.'s at the time I brought up the matter. I think R. is using priority in his 4th vol. which is now in hands of the printer. I hope you can give me something definite on this matter.

Sincerely E. W. Nelson.

Washington
June 11/07

Dear Brewster; You have probably seen the last number of "Everybody's Magazine" with the President's opinion of nature fakirs and some of Long's blatant replies in the newspapers.
We all regret that the President should have become mixed up in a controversy when such an unscrupulous fellow could get a chance to blackguard him — for that is the most appropriate term to give some of Long's replies.
However the thing has been done and it struck me that the time was ripe for the publication of some kind of a symposium of the opinions of real naturalists on the nature faking books and their pernicious influence in building up a false conception of nature. I discussed the idea with a number of our

2) friends here and they all thought it a good idea and also thought it well to have the expressions of opinion published in the form of an article — or rather with a preface by Clark who appears as the author of the article in Everybody's. Merriam will contribute also Evermann of the U.S. Fish Commission, also myself and I am very desirous to have a short contribution of from 150 to 200 words containing a concise expression of your opinion on the subject to appear over your signature. Evermann is a member of the Board of Education here & says that it was only by a scratch that Long's books were kept from being adopted as supplemental reading in the schools here a year or so ago & that they have considerable use for that purpose in some parts of the country.

3) He says that when this symposium is published that the leading educational journals which reach the great majority of the teachers throughout the country will be glad to republish it & so to a considerable extent counteract the influence of this class of literature and give it its proper status. There is a great need for an expression of opinion from naturalists of standing as field observers for without it the public is led to infer that the claims of these fakirs are worth their face value. I wrote Clark & he is much pleased with the idea & will try & get the material together & asked me to help secure some of it. For the good of the cause & to help strengthen the article by the influence of your name I sincerely trust you will feel inclined to take a

4/hand.

I will be glad to have your contribution as soon as you can conveniently send it in case you will be so good as to send it.

C.H.M. is preparing to leave for Calif. in a few days. Bailey & Goldman are already out there. I am still about hunting.

The Washington climate still merits your most expletives - today a cold rain is falling with overcoats in full use on the streets & heat turned on in the apartment houses!

I expect it is quite tropical now in Cambridge - to judge from your remarks when here.

Sincerely yours,

E. W. Nelson

Washington
June 12/07

Prof. Brewster: In my letter last night I suggested that your contribution be from 150 to 200 words in length. This was an error for it should contain 500 or 600 words in order to enable you to give a proper exposition of your opinion.
When I attempted to write my own contribution I found how inadequate 200 words would be.

Sincerely
E. W. Nelson

Washington
June 18/07

Dear Brewster:

I overlook your slanderous remarks about the climate in these parts long enough to note the fact that a spring thaw has now set in and a fair peach crop is assured if we have no late frosts.

Meanwhile I wish to express my pleasure that you will contribute an expression of your opinion to the length of 500 or 600 words to the discomfiture of the "fakirs". I am getting the contributions slowly. Merriam has a good one which he took along last night when he started for California to do some polishing on it & to return it by mail in a few days. Forsmann of the Fish Commission is working on his & I am at mine. If we can get them all in hand by July it will be well. It will be more effective to make a good hard body blow when we do hit than to waste energy in small attacks. We all agree

in regretting that the President missed in but the opening is a good one for us to follow up. I look forward with interest to your contribution which I hope you will find opportunity to prepare by the first part of July.
Mrs. M. goes to Calif. with C. H. – the children spend the summer at his brothers in New York state. All the field men are now out of town & we are settling down for the summer. The beautiful weather recently has made me wish I could get out and live under canvas & the sky for a while.

Sincerely yours.
E. W. Nelson

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 1/07

Dear Porter;

Here I come again! How is the article regarding nature fakes coming on? I have just received a letter from Clark saying that the editor of Everybody's Magazine is pleased with the idea and wishes to have the article for the Sept. number. This means that the mss. must be in his hands before the end of this month. Clark writes that the President has heard of the proposed expression of opinion of naturalists on the subject and is much pleased.

I really think we can make an effective contribution to the controversy and show up the fakirs in their true light to many people so it will be time well spent. Long & others of this class have persistently misrepresented the ideas of naturalists in stating again & again that we deny reasoning powers to animals (mammals & birds) and attribute to them only instincts.

I wish you would make your position clear on this subject for if I am not mistaken I have

heard you express your belief in the reasoning powers of birds & mammals. I do not know a single naturalist who denies the reasoning powers of animals, up to a certain point. The entire attitude of naturalists toward animal life has been misrepresented by Long & his kind & they pose as the only sympathetic observers. So persistently have they done this that a large share of the reading public is coming to believe them & their lies. You wrote in your former letter that you could probably have a contribution ready by the middle of this month which will be in good time. Please drop me a line to let me know if I can count on you.

Sincerely

E. W. Nelson

P.S. Please do not mention this matter to anyone as it is necessary to not have the information leak out that such an article is being prepared.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 12/07

Dear Brewster; Your letter came yesterday and I am greatly disappointed to learn that you think you may not be able to send me a contribution to the symposium. I am interested in getting something from you and all it need be is a mere expression of your opinion on the subject from the standpoint of an experienced observer of nature. The main thing is to have your opinion on record with the others and an elaborate production is not necessary for this. A contribution of from 500 to 800 words is all that is needed. If you find it really impossible to take part I will be left in an embarrassing position for I understood from your previous letters that if you could have until the middle of this month you would probably be able to send in something. With this feeling I wrote to several others I asked to take a hand telling them you would take part. Should you not contribute it will

of necessary for me to write these people explaining my mistake or I will stand in their estimation as something of a fakir myself! Aside from this I am very anxious to have you take part for I wish the symposium to contain the opinions of 8 or 10 real naturalists of high standing as observers so to make it most effective. It is a great pity that you do not get a stenographer and so unburden yourself from that correspondence nightmare. It is enough to wear you out and life is too short & has too many pleasanter & more profitable ways of using time than to grind it out writing longhand.

You have had experience enough to show you the time saving possibilities of thus disposing of your letters and you could undoubtedly use a stenographer to great advantage in your literary work and so get rid of nearly all the mechanical drudgery of preparing manuscript. I feel the burden of much longhand writing & look forward with reluctance to taking up anything which requires much of it. None of this feeling goes with anything I can dictate. I sincerely hope to be pleasantly surprised by a favorable reply soon. Across yours, E. W. M.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 17/07

Dear Brewster; Your letter just rec'd.
It will be impossible to get the article ready for the Sept. Magazine so mss. for it may be sent me as late as Aug. 25.
This gives you considerable leeway in time and I will be delighted if you can send a contribution. I will not write any one till the last gasp hoping you may find the spirit move.
If there is any way of discrediting such a charlatan as Long it ought to be done. It was my long continued exasperation at his persistent lies that started me to try & gather the opinions of some prominent naturalists. I felt that he was misrepresenting the attitude and opinions of real naturalists to a point that required some reply on our part in self defense. While all

I have written to about the matter agree with me in expressing their feelings against him not all appear willing to contribute. I have mss. from Merriam, Lucas and Formann already in hand and need at least 5 or 6 others.

I sincerely hope you may strike a happy vein and help me out but of course this must be left for you to decide.

Sincerely yours,

E. W. Nelson

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

13 Elm St
Ashtabula, Ohio.
Aug 14/08

Dear Brewster; I am greatly indebted to you for the copy of 'The Man Eaters of Tsavo'. It is the most intensely interesting book I have read for many a day. I think you knew when you sent it how much I would appreciate it. It is astonishing that the author ever lived to write the book for the chances he took were so remarkable that it was sheer good fortune not good hunting sense that saved him again & again. It is surely a thrilling tale and filled my veins with hunting fire as I read it. Such primeval conditions as the Uganda road penetrated will not endure for many years to come, even in the most remote regions.

I am up here on the shore of Lake Erie spending my vacation with my mother. She will spend the winter with me in Washington. For the first time I feel the

summer heat in Washington too much for me and was glad to get away for a rest. H.W. is in fine condition this summer & I think your Bethel man did his business for him and put him on his feet again in good shape.
C.H.M. still hangs on at Washington but expects to go to Calif. for a short season. Just when he goes is, or was when I left W., an unknown date.
We are now occupying the entire upper floor of the building where we have had half the lower floor till recently and feel correspondingly relieved from the congested condition in which we formerly worked.
I have begun work on the report on the trip to Lower Calif. and expect to continue on it from now on until it is completed.
H.W. told me earlier in the season that you were used up but later that you were getting all right again. I trust you are now in normal condition again and enjoying the summer. If Mrs. Brewster is within reach please give her my kindest regards, compliments & wishes.

Washington
Dec. 9/08

Dear Bowditch; Time has been riding in a high powered automobile ever since I returned from Cambridge and I can scarcely believe that almost 3 weeks have gone by. It seems only day before yesterday. I have been extremely busy since my return doing the class of small jobs invented by the Devil to consume one's days without any apparent result. Every A.O.U. meeting I have attended at Cambridge has been extremely pleasant but the last one was the most enjoyable of all. This was due to the opportunity I had of being with you and Mrs. Bowditch. The only drawback to a perfect week was Mrs. Bowditch's illness which prevented her sharing the general good time as fully as she would have done. I hope she is all right again before this. Washington is full of Congresses and conventions of more or less public interest. The most important probably is the Conservation meeting of the Governors. The formal meeting took place yesterday afternoon

and was attended by a crowded house in Belasco's theatre. Mr. Taft presided and speeches were made by the President, Mr Pinchot, Taft and Gov. Chamberlain of Oregon. It was gratifying to hear the emphatic way in which Taft approved of the Conservation idea, as developed by Roosevelt, and announced his intention to do all in his power to advance the cause.

It will interest you to know about a moving picture exhibition in the east room of the White House last night. It showed in full details the hunting of gray wolves with dogs & horses in Oklahoma. The pictures were fine and ~~showed the dogs~~ in one instance showed the dogs pursuing a wolf into a deep stream followed immediately by the mounted hunters led by U.S. Marshal Abernathy of Oklahoma. Just as the horsemen dashed in Abernathy's horse fell & threw him and when Abernathy came to the surface he caught the swimming wolf in his hands & had a struggle with him in the water

2/ surrounded by the pack of dogs. It was an exciting scene and the wolf finally broke away & escaped for a time.
This was followed by another wolf being chased into the water, and which Abernathy caught in his hands and held by a grip on its open underjaw until it was dragged ashore. Abernathy is a short, thickset man about 40 or 45 I should say and has become noted throughout the Southwest for his practice of running wolves with hounds and when the wolf is overtaken he jumps from his horse and seizes the wolf by the underjaw as it bites at him and holds the animal helpless with its jaws widespread. He was there last night and I asked him how he avoided being snapped by the wolves before he got a chance to grip its jaw (for in one picture he was rolled over on the ground as he struggled with a wolf but he did not seem able to explain it very plainly. I think it is due to his surprising quickness. The President made some preliminary remarks & made some amusing political allusions.
Now to go to another matter. At present the biographical papers on two deceased

Fellows of the A.O.U. (Turnbull and Merrill) still remain to be presented to the Union according to custom. Considerable time has gone since their deaths and I hope it will be possible to have them presented at the next meeting. Can you prepare the biographical sketch of Dr. Merrill? With the year before you I hope you will undertake it. It seems a pity to let such matters hang fire too long for it gets more and more difficult to do the work and at the same time gives an impression of easy forgetfulness of those who pass out of our number. I hope when the tropical breezes of Cambridge begin to blow that you will have good memories of the cooling zephyrs from the Potomac and will make a long stay with us this winter. It will please me mightily if you will do so.

Sincerely yours,

E. W. Nelson

P.S. On p. 90 of the Auk for 1903 you promise to present a memoir of Merrill at the next AOU meeting! Where is it??

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dec. 30/08

Dear Brewster; I tried your suggestion on H.W.H. in the matter of the Merrill memoir and it will not work. H.W. says he only knew Merrill in the most superficial way and that you are the only one who knew enough of him to make a proper account. My inquiry in all directions invariably raises the question why it is not done by the one man who knew Merrill best and has the necessary information about him. It appears to be the general opinion that the matter is in your hands and that it properly belongs there. Much as I would like to be able to find a substitute to take up the work I fear it is impossible. Merrill was a good man and deserves to have a memorial account of his life published. For this reason it should not be permitted to drift by this year or it is likely to be forever sidetracked — to mix my figures of speech. Your long acquaintance with him should be a great help in making it easier to give an account of his life. I do not like to crowd you or to suggest anything that will delay your work on Nuthatches Birds but here is a piece of work that urgently needs doing and it appears certain that you are the only man who can do it. I sincerely hope you may see

your way to do it this year. You have already published the salient points in his course in the preliminary notice in the Auk. Why cannot you ~~to~~ take this notice as a basis for the more detailed account?

Things are very quiet here now. C. H. is at Baltimore at the Am. Assoc. meeting and H.W. is running the office with half the force — including myself — using up the remnants of our annual leave. I am planning to write Mr. Brewster so will leave you here. Before I stop however I wish to tell you how pleased I was to receive the pretty calendar from you as it showed you had me in kindly memory.

With sincere good wishes for a pleasant and productive new year, I remain,

Ever your sincere friend

E. W. Nelson

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Jan. 19/09.

Dear Brewster; Your letter concerning the Merrill memorial should have been answered long before this. I am sorry this matter appears to be so difficult for you to handle. I think perhaps you contemplate a longer and more elaborate piece of work than should be expected. It appears to me that the requirements of the case will be entirely filled if you would prepare a memorial not to exceed in length Merrill's memorial of Bendire in the Auk for 1898, pp. 1-6. So far as I am informed Merrill did much less for ornithology than Bendire and there should be a certain proportion in these accounts based on the man's services to this science. You have already printed a preliminary 2 page notice of Merrill in the Auk and, as I suggested in a former letter, this can well serve as a skeleton on

which to build the memorial — an additional 4 or 5 pages. I sincerely hope you will not consider it necessary to put in any such length of time as you mention. No such elaborate and extended account as this would mean is expected.

I wish we could talk over the matter. Hunshaw agrees with me in thinking that you probably have in mind a much more elaborate account than is required. Sage promises to have the Turnbull account ready and Drane is gathering material for the Aldrich memorial. If you have not done anything on this matter before you come down here can you bring on your rough notes and such material in the rough as you have with the idea of doing something toward shaping the article while you are here? I am anxious to have you do this work and at the same time wish to make the burden as light as possible to you and to have it interfere as little as possible with the Umbagog work. Sincerely yours,

E. W. Nelson

Washington March 22/10

Dr. Brewster; It has been suggested that an official invitation be sent the International Ornithological Congress from the A.O.U. asking it to hold its next meeting, in 1915, in this country. Both New York and Washington have been mentioned as places of meeting. In New York no doubt the Congress would be welcomed at the American Museum while in Washington the new National Museum, now almost completed, will have equally fine facilities for such a meeting. New York has certain advantages for such a meeting while Washington has others. It has been said that the National Capital would be the most appropriate place in which to hold an international meeting of this kind. However, this is a matter for the Council to settle as I will act according to the desire of the majority. For this reason [illegible]

as soon as convenient, your opinion on the advisability of such an invitation being given and also your choice of a meeting place between the two named above. I have gone over the list of entertainments to be given the ~~for~~ Congress at its coming meeting in Europe ~~at~~ next summer and find that we could do equally well on a reasonable contribution from those who would be actively interested in such a meeting.

How are you and Mrs. Prentiss faring these days? It will no doubt surprise you greatly to learn that the rigorous climate of these parts has loosened up so that birds are starting, crocuses coming, birds singing and other signs and portents of spring are abroad in the land. A cardinal and a song sparrow sing a broken duet a short distance from my window mornings while robins and grakles are numerous and active on open spaces. The check-list appears to be coming along very well and should appear at no very distant date. It would

2) to contemplate the fact that it will be outdate before it is published due largely to the activity of Grinnell & Co. in California. In addition Dr. Stejneger threatens vague but dire inroads into nomenclature when he "gets time to take it up". This should comfort those who might fear there will be nothing left for another Committee on Nomenclature to do but sit and look wise.

The new National Museum has recently opened to the public two of its exhibition halls — one of paintings &c, and the other the ethnological groups, but it will be months before the building is fully completed.

I presume you know that the bird collections are in their new quarters in the new museum with the Biological Survey collection in a room next to Ridgway's office. This makes bird work on the two collections much easier.

Beal's plan to take up Dendroica work & carry it to completion is a good one though it would be still better to take up the entire work from the beginning and do it all from the up-to-date information which is largely in excess of what Dendroica had

at his disposal. It appears to me, however, that if he takes charge of the National Museum egg collection as Curator, for the purpose of doing his work, and of course to build up the collection, which would be a part of the work of such a position, he ought to make Washington his home. A long range curatorship with the Curator living far away would not work for the best interests of the Collection. But is at an age & has the energy & character to be able to carry his plans to full completion and I hope it will work out so that he does the job and comes here to live.

I do not expect to go in the field this year. I shall spend the summer somewhere in the north, probably in New York State, with some work to keep me occupied. I find I am worked out & need the rest.

Give my kindest regards to Mrs. Brewster and the same to yourself.

R. R. has his next volume written except the proofs. He expects to go to Ill. for next 3 months taking work with him & to finish the vol. there.

Yours

E. W. Nelson

Washington
April 15/10

Dear Brewster; Am glad to know you are to be down here this month. We are having an ideal and very early spring so you will find things looking their best for your benefit. H.W. tells me you are coming for a season with Dr. Allen and I begin to fear that poor Oberholser's days will be short in the land. You made dire prognostication as to what would happen when your last tooth is gone & it looks suspiciously like business for you to seek a dentist so soon thereafter! I have heard of men's lives hanging by a hair but never of their hanging by a tooth — until now. You evidently appreciate the subtlety of Grinnell's methods in the manufacture of subspecies. When he turns his attention to mammals I look forward to the Hillside Bear being made a full genus.

I wish your visit here had been timed for a little earlier in the month. The Boone & Crockett Club has a dinner here the 23d inst. & I would have been glad to have had you as a guest.

Theodore (& probably the others of the African naturalists) is expected here the last of this month or first of next. Ridgway is now out in Illinois. He has the 5th Vol. of his work pretty well along toward completion — it will be finished this summer. Hunshaw is still in golf purgatory and recently distinguished himself by destroying a large proportion of the turf on the grounds at Chevy Chase.

Sincerely yours

E. W. Nelson

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 15, 1910.

Dr. Brewster; This is merely a note to acknowledge receipt of your contribution to the Merriam memorial. Your message on the card is a fine tribute to C.H. and he will thoroughly appreciate it, especially from you.

I sent cards to Batchelder & to Bangs when yours went but have heard nothing from them.

Is Batchelder in Cambridge?

It may interest you to know that I have a paper in press naming the Pigmy Owl of the Rocky Mts. as subspecifically distinct from gnoma. It is not a subspecies of the hortensis grade!

Sincerely

E. W. Nelson

Washington
July 5/00

Dear Brewster: Hershey tells me that you are to go ahead with the Birds of Pine Bagg this summer and I write to tell you how pleased I am to hear of it. After reading your Red-legged article in the recent Auk it came home to me how much would be lost to ornithological literature if you do not complete your Lunkagge work. I am surprised to see how good a case you have in the Red-leg [illegible]

think you have succeeded
in disentangling Dwight's
[illegible]
At the same time I admire
the literary finish of your
reply and am much
amused at the tone of
[illegible] surprised at your
[illegible] to resume
a [illegible] simple.

Yours very truly
[illegible]

In case you so desire, of course, any thing you write would be considered confidential.

Please give my best regards to Mrs Brewster. I hope she may come with you to the meeting.

As ever yours,

E. W. Nelson

COSMOS CLUB
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Oct. 16/10

Dear Brewster; I am glad to learn from Hershaw that you & Mrs. Brewster are well and that you have made good progress on your work during the last few months. Of course we shall have the pleasure of seeing you here next month at the A.O.U. meeting. With the election of the new President at this meeting a new Vice President must be chosen to fill the vacancy. Have you a suggestion to make as to the eligibles for this place? Stone has been suggested by one

man and is worthy of the place but it may be best to consider some of the older men first as Stone is young enough to wait till a later date.
However I am much interested in getting an expression of your opinion so to help get a idea of what is for the best interest of the Union as well as for due consideration for those eligible for the place.
I am pegging away on the Lower Calif. report which grows in scope until it now covers a general monographic account of the Peninsula including climate, physiography, brief history of scientific explorations, bibliography of works & papers on scientific exploration and an account of the woody plants as well as the birds & mammals. I did not think of taking up the subject so fully at first but as I got into the work I found so little definite information about conditions on the Peninsula that it seemed worth while to make the report cover the ground in this way.
You did such a good piece of work on the Birds that I shall not go so fully into them as I should otherwise do. Please let me hear from you soon in the A.O.U. matter.

704 Florence Court
Washington D.C.
Oct. 30/10

Dear Bowdler; I was very glad to know from your letter that you will be here at the meeting in November and hope your stay will not be limited to the period of the meeting. What do you think of making Mearns Vice-President? His name has been suggested & as he was one of the founders of the Union & has done much work already & plans to devote his time largely to Ornithology he is open to consideration. Furthermore his health is such that if he is not considered now there is not much chance of its being done at a later period. I admire Stone and like him very much personally and other things being equal would vote for him without hesitation. In this case Stone's comparative youth makes it no hardship if he has to wait a little for older men. Of course this is a mere suggestion & I shall be glad if you will, if you have the opportunity, see what Batchelder thinks of it.

I hope you exerted the needed moral influence on Uncle Henry while he was with you and so send him back to us properly chastened. Yours, Ed Nelson

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Feby. 9/11

Dr. Brewster; I have just received a letter from Dwight J. Osborn, 189 East Colorado St., Pasadena, Calif., who is a member of the Cooper Club, announcing that he plans a trip to the southern end of the Cape Region the coming spring. He will have an assistant and while collecting specimens of all land vertebrates will devote most of his attention to birds. He expresses a desire to send me material on the habits of birds observed for my report and asks if I can tell him where he can get a copy of Birds of the Cape Region by purchase or otherwise. If you have a sufficient number of separates of this work so you can spare it I would be greatly obliged if you would send it to him in order to encourage him in his idea of co-operating in the way of bird notes. If you are out of separates please let me know what the Museum Comp. Gen. charges for them. I hope you are getting through the minutes

in good health and that the 'grippe' fails to find you. Henshaw & E. W. N. are getting along very well so far but C. H. M. is having a hard time of it. He had a light attack of the grippe soon after the A.O.U. meeting and now is in bed with a much more severe attack of the same. Mrs. Dailey has been in a serious condition most of the time since the A.O.U. as the result of the grippe but is gaining slowly now. R. R. and Means have also been laid up for a time with the same malady. All of which proves that Washington has been no 'Bloomin' success as a health resort for ornithologists the present season. R. R. has completed vol. V. and has considerable preliminary work completed on vol. VI. He & Oberholser have changed the conditions in the Hairy and the Ladder-backed woodpecker groups until none of them will be able to recognize their own grandmothers.

Sincerely yours,

E. W. Nelson.

Washington
March 22/11

Dear Brewster, I intended writing you some days ago in regard to the samples of your "Birds of Umbagog" which you recently sent Russian I read them with the greatest pleasure & appreciation, and congratulate you on the manner in which you are doing the work. You have done wisely to limit the work to your own observations and gatherings of fact for you have a rich abundance of material to draw from. Your account of Pine Point is so vivid and abounds in such intimate details that I have a clear mental picture of your charming summer location.
The life histories are fine, especially that of the Merganser. You have given a wonderfully living picture of the life of these birds at Umbagog and have introduced just the right amount of personal detail to render the account delightful reading to a much wider class than those interested only in the birds.
From this sample of the work I am certain that you are producing a book which will be unique in character and which will be a notable addition to our Nature literature. I am so pleased with it that I feel like

saying many more things in its praise, for I think you are doing a most admirable piece of work, but I think I have said enough to give you an idea of what I think of it. I look forward with the greatest interest to seeing the completed work. I have not a suggestion to make for any improvement in your plan of handling your material.

Spring threatens to be on hand soon and if you come down here the last of April you may find that a thaw has set in and winter is breaking up! Hope you are making good progress in your war on gipsy moths.

Sincerely yours,

E. W. Nelson

Washington
April 17/11

Dear Brewster; How are you and how is the fight with mother coming on? I was sorry to learn that your old trouble had come back to plague you for a time but trust you are all right again by this time. We have all been much grieved at Purdie's death for he was a most lovable fellow. It must be a great loss to you owing to your long and close association. Will you kindly undertake to write his memorial for the next A.O.U. meeting? You of all others are the one to do it and I hope you will do so.

I have planned throughout the winter to get up to Lancaster and Cambridge to do some bird work for my Birds of Lower California and for my Check list of Mexican Birds but illness and add jobs of one kind & another have intervened to prevent so I now feel that it is best to put off my visit until immediately after the A.O.U. meeting next fall. I trust you will then be in Cambridge as I wish to go over your birds from Mexico a little for distribution notes and in addition wish to have the pleasure of a visit with you. What became of the list of Sonora

birds in your collection that Walter Deane made when we were planning a paper on them? You sent it on to me and I think I returned it to you to hold. The data it contains would be helpful in my distribution work when I take up the preparation of the Checklist next fall. As I remember I found 2 or 3 undescribed birds in your collection which we were to publish but I cannot locate any memoranda concerning them and think I must have sent you some notes about them.

If you know what they are I wish you would ~~no~~ publish them with brief diagnoses in the July Auk so I can use the names in the Check-list. I have been dissapointed to learn from Henry that you may not come here this spring and hope you may change your mind and come. We would be mighty glad to see you.

Sincerely yours,

E. W. Nelson

Washington
May 26/11

Dear Brooks; Your good letter came a couple of days ago and I greatly appreciate your hospitable invitation for my visit to Cambridge next fall. I shall look forward to bring with you with the keenest pleasure for my visits at your home have always been most enjoyable. With the alternative of sailing for England May 2 or coming for a visit here I am selfish enough to hope you may decide on the latter. We shall surely be glad to see you and our long, iron-bound winter has just broken so you can come in safety. The only drawback to my going to Cambridge for so long a period as you suggest is that my doctor thinks I need a bracing climate and I fear the enervating effects of a long stay in such a warm region.

You are the one of all others to write poor Rudolf's memorial and I trust

You will find a certain amount of pleasure in preparing this tribute to his memory when the first bitterness of his loss has passed. Several of our friends have spoken of the matter and all agree that it is your task.

If you decide to go to England I hope you will have a delightful summer and will return much benefitted by the trip.

Please give my love and best wishes for an enjoyable summer to Mrs. Bowles.

Sincerely yours

E. W. Nelson

Washington
Dec. 19/16

Dear Sir; I was much pleased today to receive your letter approving my mammal article in the Geog. Magazine. It was your appreciation of work of this kind is that I am expert and this makes it all the more valuable. When my second article covering the smaller species is published — which will be in about a year the public will be able to get at the salient facts about our animal (mammal) life. I would have been pleased to expand the personal experiences in the sketches of the species but lack space for this. I was asked to make the accounts of the species run 300 words each! I wrote sketches of varying length up to more than twice this length & after reading them Mr. Grosvenor let down the bars & I wrote them as they appear — even then much shorter than they might have been.

I found the job of preparing these sketches — which had to be done Sundays & evenings in a little over 2 months a most interesting task. This reminds me to ask you how soon we may expect your first part of the Menagerie work? The sketches you read to me were so good that I have been impatient to see the work in print.

Sincerely yours

E. L. Nelson

I hope Mr. V. will go to Florida for 2 or 3 months & do some field work for the Museum in connection with our investigation of migratory birds & food. It will do him a lot of good

N.

how large species of mammals can vary geographically, for I am inclined to believe that there are only a very few species involved. How are the birds of Umbagog coming on?

Please give my kindest regards to Mrs. Brewster. It was another disappointment from the Brewster family that she could not come here this spring.

As ever, sincerely yours,

E. W. Nelson

COSMOS CLUB
WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 23

Dear Brewster; We are all much disappointed to learn that your annual visit here is abandoned. I have been looking forward with keen pleasure to a visit with you and a trip to Plummer's Island during this month. We have had abundant rains and the vegetation is at its finest. The summers in these semi-arctic places are sometimes fine and this is a good year to see it. H.W. says you have had an upheaval at Concord but I hope you will not have any difficulty in getting a good man for

He returns about July 1.
My report on the physiography
of Lower Calif. is approaching
completion — expect to have
it ready before July 1. Shall
feel much relieved when
it is off my hands for it has
been a long time growing.
C.H.M. is hard at his brass
with the intent to complete
the job before going west. He
is getting some extremely inter-
esting and surprising results.
The grizzlies of the west break
up into species or races
almost ~~as~~ or quite as numerously
as some mice. There are
good skull characters
which show up well in
such large skulls.
It would interest you to
see his material now as a
scientific demonstration of
your place — though good
men seem to become
scarcer & scarcer.
I hope the winter has left
both you and Mrs. Brewster
in good health. I am in
distinctly better condition
than I was a year ago and
look forward to returning
from the west in the fall in
still better condition. Hope
to get away to Arizona
about the first of July.
Goldman sent up a
nice lot of birds from eastern
Panama about a month ago
and I am finding a number
of new ones among the lot.
His collection of 200 skins
from a previously unvisited
mountain 5000 ft. high is
now on its way and I anticipate
some good things from it.

F. W. NELSON,
Attorney at Law,
Winslow, Arizona.

July 16, 1900 –

Mr. Walter Brane
Jeffrey N.H.

Dear Sir; your note is just at hand.
I will be very glad to see the flycatchers next October as you suggest. I expect to return to Washington in September and will be greatly obliged if Mr. Brewster can send on the specimens as soon as convenient after his return to Cambridge.

Very truly yours,
E. W. Nelson

Nelson, E. W.
July 16, 1900.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

C. HART MERRIAM, CHIEF
A. K. FISHER, ASSISTANT CHIEF
T. S. PALMER,
ASST. IN CHARGE GAME PRESERVATION
F. E. L. BEAL,
ASST. IN CHARGE ECONOMIC ORNITHOLOGY

July 28/04

Dear Mr. Drane;

Many thanks for your note regarding Puma v. concolor as you say - Brown specified no ~~co~~ types so the series he had became cotypes of which your two are a part.

Glad to hear that Mr. Bowdish is getting on well.

Sincerely

E. W. Nelson

Nelson, E. W.
Aug 28, 1904.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Jan 4/05

Dear Drane;

I return your sample entry of species with some annotations. It appears to me that the state should be given in each case even though it may appear like repetition. As a matter of fact the list will be much less useful with the states left out except in the introduction. It presupposes a familiarity with local geography which is not possessed by most and would necessitate too much reference to the introduction. Why not use sex marks in place of initial letters of sexes? I would make all Trompa localities read La Trompa as they are no doubt the same the La being omitted for brevity in some cases. Is the name of this place La Trompa or La Trampa? The first means a trumpet or snout and the last means a trap in Spanish. It is necessary to be careful to get the spelling right as on that may depend the proper location of the place.

(over)

I hope you will make out the itinerary with as much detail as possible including altitudes.

Can you not arrange the list of specimens so that the localities will follow in the order visited by the collectors? This arrangement with the arrangement of localities in the same sequence in the introduction will facilitate cross reference.

If there is anything further I can make suggestions about I will be glad to do it. Let me hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

E. W. Nelson.

Nelson, E.W.
Jan.4, 1905.